

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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R 090810Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5600

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4471

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BFOL, SW

SUBJECT: DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS
AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICES

REF: STATE 202051

1. THE EMBASSY IS GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF SUGGESTIONS THAT FOREIGN
SERVICE POSTS AND COMMERCE DISTRICT OFFICES BE AUTHORIZED
GREATER LATITUDE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER DIRECTLY.
WITH SOME CAVEATS, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE
LATITUDE FOR SUCH COMMUNICATIONS WOULD REDUCE BOTH DUPLICATION
AND THE TIME EXPENDED IN RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF US EXPORTERS.
IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER SUCH AUTHORITY COULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT ONLY
IF:

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A) COMMERCE AND STATE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AND TO ORIGINATE

ALL COMMUNICATIONS ESSENTIAL TO PROPER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.

B) FOR PRIORITY MESSAGES, EITHER A DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK BETWEEN POSTS AND THE D.O.'S IS ESTABLISHED OR RAPID REPEATING FACILITIES ARE ESTABLISHED AT STATE OR COMMERCE; AND

C) BOTH POSTS AND D.O.'S EXERCISE GOOD JUDGEMENT AND RESTRAINT WHEN CONTEMPLATING DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

2. MATTERS RELATED TO POLICY SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DIRECTED TO OR THROUGH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE. IT WOULD FIRST SEEM NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO SURVEY WHAT OTHER CATEGORIES OF MESSAGES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM DIRECT POST/D.O. COMMUNICATIONS. IN THE EXPERIENCE OF COMMERCIAL OFFICERS AT THIS POST, THERE IS LITTLE COMMUNICATION WHICH WE WOULD FIND EXPEDIENT TO SEND DIRECTLY TO D.O.'S. MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY OTHER RESPONDENTS TO REFTEL AND WOULD MOST COMMONLY INCLUDE NOTICES OF THE ISSUANCE OF COMMERCIAL INVITATIONS, TRADE COMPLAINTS, AND THE FACILITATING OF CONTACTS BETWEEN SWEDISH FIRMS AND SPECIFIC AMERICAN COMPANIES. THERE MAY HOWEVER, BE OTHER, INFREQUENT, OCCASIONS WHEN WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY.

3. AS FOR COMMUNICATIONS ORIGINATING FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO THE VARIOUS POSTS, THE MOST LIKELY MATTERS WOULD APPEAR TO BE REQUESTS FOR ADS'S, WTDR'S AND TRADE COMPLAINTS FROM US FIRMS. IN TERMS OF OUR OWN WORKLOAD, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF WE COULD REFER ALL DIRECT INQUIRIES FROM US FIRMS TO THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT OFFICE. ALL CHANNELLED TO US FROM THE D.O.'S; POSTS WOULD BE INQUIRIES FROM US FIRMS COULD THEN BE CERTAIN THAT THE INQUIRING FIRMS HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES THEY REQUIRE FROM US SOURCES. SUCH A PRACTICSE WOULD ALSO SERVE TO BOLSTER THE DISTRICT OFFICES AS THE PRIMARY PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO US EXPORTERS.

4. IN SUM, WHILE WE BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO INITIATE A POLICY UNCLASSIFIED

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PERMITTING MORE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN POSTS AND DISTRICT OFFICES, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PROGRAM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY MONITORED TO INSURE THAT THIS AUTHORITY DID NOT GIVE RISE TO ABUSES EITHER BY POSTS OR DISTRICT OFFICES. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT COPIES OF ALL DIRECT POST/D.O. COMMUNICATIONS, EXCEPT PERHAPS, ITEMS SENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY, BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES IN WASHINGTON. IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO GRANT SUCH AUTHORITY

TO A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVE POSTS AND D.O.'S FOR A LIMITED
TRAIL PERIOD -- SAY ONE YEAR -- AFTER WHICH THE EXPERIENCE
COULD BE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE THE USEFULNESS OF THE
PRACTICE.
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